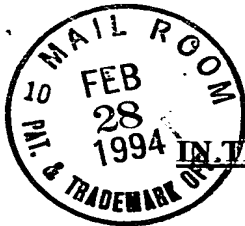


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Patents

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 1206

Examiner:

P.D. File No.: 30-2004FWC1

In re Application of: RICHARD R. HERTZOG ET AL.
Serial No.: Unknown - Being Filed Concurrently Herewith
Filed: February 28, 1994
For: DECOMPOSITION OF CUMENE HYDROPEROXIDE

Petersburg, VA 23804

February 28, 1994

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-captioned application, please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following new claims.

--9. An improved method for the decomposition of cumene hydroperoxide by acidic catalyst to phenol and acetone wherein the improvement comprises decomposing cumene hydroperoxide in a non-isothermal manner in the presence of excess acetone in the amount of 10 to 100 percent acetone relative to the amount of acetone produced during the reaction.

10. The method in accordance with claim 9 wherein the cumene hydroperoxide is decomposed in a multiplicity of separate sequential reactors each with a controlled temperature range.

11. The method in accordance with claim 9 wherein the acidic catalyst is sulphuric acid.